

CWM PROJECT UPDATE:

CWM project completed at Dunn Field

Excavation and removal activities are now completed at Dunn Field, bringing a successful end to the chemical warfare materiel (CWM) removal project that began in April 2000.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its CWM contractors are confident that the three sites identified as Site 1, 24A and 24B are now free of mustard and related CWM by-products.

Workers inside the vapor containment structure (VCS) at Site 1 removed chemical warfare service materials, including a box of 24 empty bottles that would have been used in the production of Chemical Agent Identification Sets (CAIS). The unused bottles were packed in their original box and did not contain any traces of mustard. After testing was completed, the bottles were removed to U.S. government archives.

Workers at Site 1 also removed approximately 100,000 small vials containing sodium hydroxide pills, identified as being from M-9 Chemical Agent Detection Kits. The vials, which were used by soldiers to detect chemicals in vapor form, were removed for safe, off-site disposal.

In September 2000, the CWM team moved the VCS to site 24A where they located and safely excavated 29 empty bomb casings that were buried in 1946.

The final phase of the CWM removal action began at Site #24B on November 28, 2000, and was completed March 12, 2001. Historical records and geophysical testing identified this as the disposal site where the bomb casings were drained, and the contents were neutralized and buried. Samples taken from the soil within the pit indicated low levels of mustard at a depth of approximately 8.5 feet, which confirmed the site as being the neutralization pit. The site was excavated and additional testing was conducted along the sides and bottom of the pit, which confirmed that all affected soil has been removed and the site is free of mustard and CWM by-products.

The March/April issue of EnviroNews reported that soil containing low levels of mustard had been shipped off site. At the time of printing, it was expected to be completed prior to publication. However, waste removal was delayed pending a review of the Transportation

UPCOMING RAB MEETINGS

The RAB includes community members who review proposed plans and actions and provide input on the environmental cleanup activities.

**The next
RAB meeting
is Thursday,
May 17th, 2001
at 6 p.m.**

The meeting will be held at Alcy Elementary School, 1750 Alcy Road at Vista Drive. For more information call (901) 544-0613.

and Disposal Plan by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). The final plan was approved in mid-April, and all materials have now been shipped to approved disposal facilities outside Tennessee.

A copy of the Transportation and Disposal Plan will be available for reference in the Depot's four Information Repositories by early June.

A summary of the CWM removal project will be presented at the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting on May 17, 2001, at Alcy Elementary School. This meeting is open to the public. For more information about the CWM project completion, please call the Memphis Depot Community Relations Office at (901) 544-0613.



Clyde Hunt, the Depot's Remedial Program Manager, uses a site map to describe the Depot's cleanup program to Grade 6 science students from Airways Middle School. The students visited the Depot's Community Outreach Room in April to learn about the environmental activities underway at the Depot.